

REMARKS

By this Rule 312 Amendment, the Applicants respectfully request amendment of the “Related Application” section of the specification and the cancellation of claims 11 and 12.

*1. Amendment to the Specification*

After receiving the Notice of Allowance, the application was reviewed for completeness. As part of this review, it was noticed that although the Patent Office has officially recognized that the subject application is a continuation application of Serial No. 09/964711, as evidenced in the official Filing Receipt, the specification itself lacks such a notation. Accordingly, the above amendment to the specification is added to make clear in the specification that the subject application claims the benefit of Serial No. 09/964711, as required by 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(i).

*2. Amendment to the Claims*

After receiving the Notice of Allowance, the application was reviewed for completeness. As part of this review, it was noticed that claims 11 and 12 are identical to claims 1 and 2 of U.S. Patent No. 6,680,898, which is the parent of the instant application. Accordingly, the amendment set forth above cancels claims 11 and 12 to avoid issuance of duplicative claims, consistent with 35 USC 101.

In each instance, the amendments do not require additional search or examination by the Examiner since they do not affect the scope of the claims and are purely formal in nature. Accordingly, entrance of the amendments is respectfully requested.

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If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this paper that are not otherwise accounted for, please charge our Deposit Account No. 03-3975.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP SHAW PITTMAN LLP



THOMAS P. HILLIARD  
Reg. No. 40330  
Tel. No. 703 770.7591

Date: July 24, 2006  
P.O. Box 10500  
McLean, VA 22102  
(703) 770-7900